



MAY 2025

THE INFORMER

May 27 - DEC Barneveld Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm
June 14 - 100th Anniversary for Camp American Legion

June 24 - DEC Richland Center Legion Post. Meeting at 7pm
July - State Convention to be held in Green Bay
Fall Conference will be in Gays Mills



Dan O'Brien – 3rd District Commander

What a good week this past week. We had Veterans Day at the Capital on Tuesday the 22nd. Around 450 Veterans showed up at Monona Terrace and walked in numbers to the Capital. It was a great showing of The American Legion, VFW, DAV and other Veteran Organizations. The Legislative had to be impressed, and they must know that we want action on Veterans Issues.

Then this past Saturday the 3rd District held its Spring Conference in Monroe. The Auxiliary held its conference at the Monroe Methodist Church, and I heard they had a wonderful conference. I was able to go over and speak to them and they had to take a break from their drawings for door prizes to let me speak. I hope I didn't upset the apple cart too much. Nice showing of Auxiliary Members and I want to thank them all for letting me come to their conference and say a few words on behalf of the 3rd District Legion. At the Legion Conference we had 5 County Commanders, 15 DEC Officers, 25 Posts and 67 Legion Members present. I thank everyone for being at the Conference. It was a good day.

As I travel the District I will keep talking about; COMMUNICATION-INVOLVEMENT-VISIBILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY. My hope is that we can improve upon having just 20 Posts represented at the conferences.

Congratulations to our Of The Award Winners: Educator of the Year (Kathy Williams), EMT of the Year (Katrina McKee), Outstanding Guard/Reservists (Emily Cash) and Law Enforcement Officer (Jodi Hager). With these outstanding individuals we will be well represented at state when they judge the applications. Thank you to the Posts who submitted applications and to the judges whose hard job it is to pick a winner.

We had Legion Members running for Dept. Vice Commander and Dept. Commander come and speak on their goals for The American Legion. We thank them for coming to our District Conference and for their dedication and commitment to our American Legion.

I would like to thank Monroe American Legion Post 84 American Legion and Auxiliary Members for their efforts on putting on an excellent Spring Conference. It ran smoothly and the food served during lunch was great. THANK YOU.

With Membership we have sent out letters to all those who not renewed for 2025 and we have also sent out letters to all Headquarter 2930 in our District. I would suggest that this is now the time to go out and contact your non-renewals and those in your Post locations that are Headquarter 2930 Members. Get you Post membership involved in contacting these Legion Members. We are a large and strong organization, but we need to continue to work at it. Some Post have questions about how to bring in Membership. I want to use a quote that I am borrowing from 1st Vice Commander Mike Rohan who read it at a County meeting we attended;

IF YOU WANT TO REACH PEOPLE NOBODY IS REACHING, YOU'VE GOT TO DO THINGS NOBODY IS DOING!

If your Post is struggling to get Veterans to join your Post, then maybe you will want to look at what you are doing year after year and make a change in your operations.

I am asking all Posts to start to get your Reports ready to send in. Every Post does something throughout the year, so you need to fill out your CPR's. Last week I sent out a report from State Adj. Julie that showed we had 20 Posts in our

District that have not turned in their Post Data Reports. I hope these 20 Posts have taken steps to get these reports sent in. If you're a Post that has a question on any reports, please give me a call. Every Posts needs to be ACCOUNTABLE unto themselves for getting these reports turned in.

We have a couple of months left in our 2024/2025 calendar year and we all still have a ton of work to do with programs, scholarships, and events. Let us finish out the year strong and let's look forward to Honoring our Veterans on Memorial Day. Be VISIBLE in your Communities.

May God Bless all of you and all Veterans.

Awards at Spring Conference

Educator of the Year – Kathy Williams

Nominated by DeForest Post 348,

Throughout her career, our Educator of the Year has demonstrated an exceptional ability to connect with students and educators alike. She has been instrumental in promoting the American Legion's mission through her active participation in our programs, including the Oratorical Scholarship Program, Badger Boys and Girls State, and the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Academy. Her enthusiasm for these initiatives has not only enriched the lives of students but has also contributed significantly to the legacy of Americanism within our community.

EMT of the Year - Katrina McKee

Nominated by Cross Plains-Middleton Post 245

Our EMT of the Year has served since October of 2015. Her Chief wrote that "Since the start of her service she has gone above and beyond in every way to help us serve our communities. Her professionalism, eagerness to teach, and running calls has moved our service forward, and has been monumental in getting us where we are today.

In the past 10 years she has run any time she could, finding time in her busy schedule as a mother, a wife, an emergency room nurse and EMT, doing everything she could to make sure Cross Plains EMS gets out the door. Katrina is also one of our first responders who when not on call, responds with a jump bag from her house in case Cross Plains EMS needs help, or is already transporting a patient. She is making sure the people of our community get the help they need when they call 911. "

Outstanding Enlisted National Guard/Reservist of the Year – Emily Cash

Nominated by Cross Plains-Middleton Post 245

Our National Guardsman of the year's Commanding Officer wrote that she "performed superbly in various roles across the Wisconsin Army National Guard's flight operations community. She has leveraged exceptional initiative and unmatched technical experience to bring positive changes to the aviation programs and has repeatedly proved influential within flight operations at the national level.

She has completed four combat deployments, including to Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. Throughout these mobilizations, her expertise has proven increasingly pivotal to operations planning and execution. Her unraveled dedication, extraordinary initiative, and achievements contributing to and advancing flight operations at the state and national level will leave an enduring impact."

Law and Order Officer of the Year - Jody Hagar

Nominated by Cross Plains-Middleton Post 245

Our Law-and-Order Officer of the Year is a 6-year veteran of law enforcement. During her career she has been involved in every type of criminal investigation but primarily focuses on Community Policing and crime prevention. Community involvement is her passion. She has started numerous community programs from scratch to include the Annual Veterans Shoot, Kick it with a Cop event, Dane county

Bike Rodeo, and Public Safety Day field trip.

She is a champion for the American Legion Dane County Youth Government Day where she coordinates with other Deputies to do presentations and tours for the students in attendance.

Congratulations to Wyatt Erhardt who represented our 3rd District at the State Oratorical Scholarship Contest. Wyatt finished as first runner up. Great Job.



In the first picture it is Dept. Commander Jim Johnson our 3rd District Oratorical representative Wyatt Erhardt and me.



Legion Members from the 3rd District who were there to support our 3rd District Representative Wyatt are from the left: Deb Relitz, Denise Rohan, Dan O'Brien, Wyatt Erhardt, Bill Statz, Ken Rynes, Jackie Nix, Scott Relitz and missing from the picture was Jim Hying.



Photo of the well-attended Oratorical Scholarship competition. Good turn-out of Family support and Legion Members support for these wonderful students.



The American Legion Post 13 out of Richland Center celebrated their 106th Birthday along with the American Legions 106th Birthday! We had a joint party with our auxiliary and significant others. 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien was our special guest for the evening.



On the 19th of April Legion members of Argyle Post 251 were honored to present a Quilt of Valor to Arnold Lien. He was a Korean War infantry soldier and a 60 year member of the Argyle American Legion.

Visit with Past Dept. Vice Commander Rich Ruland. Argyle Post Commander Jerry Gerber, Rich Ruland and Dist. Commander Dan O'Brien. Rich is presently living at; Greenway Manor, 501 Winsted St., Spring Green, WI 53588. Rich would love hearing from his fellow Legion and SAL friends.



American Legion Post 473 (Potosi) - Newly elected Commander Mark Richardson (right) presents a letter of appreciation to Commander Steven Post for his 11 years as Post Commander.





TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW

American Legion and SAL members from nearby locations attended the "Two Candles for Tomorrow" ceremony on April 14th: PNC Denise Rohan (Post 385-Verona), Chaplain/3VC Darrel "AJ" Feucht (Post 501-Madison), Historian Morris Sadicario (Post 501-Madison) and Dane County 2VC & SAL 3rd District Historian Seán Patchin.



A color guard dressed in Revolutionary uniforms started the proceedings, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and "The Star-Spangled Banner." Gov. Tony Evers highlighted the many firsts Wisconsin brought: kindergarten, the five-day



work week, unemployment compensation, highway numbering system and more. He said that this "Two-Light" nationwide initiative, conceived by former curator at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Kevin Hampton, is another first. The Two Lights for Tomorrow website is at "wisvetsmuseum.com/america250". Kevin is now at the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission.

Morris Sadicario, Dane County Council Historian (Severson-Cairns American Legion Post 501).

Veterans Day at the Capitol, April 22, 2025

About 450 citizens attended this action and ceremony, including Dane County Council members.

Those gathered in the State Capitol Rotunda included representatives from The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and other supporters of veterans. The general atmosphere showed a desire for cooperation between government and citizens.



501, 3 Alan Kromanaker AL 501, 4 Morris 501, 5 Jesse Garza AL 501, 6 Luke Sprague VFW Woodard VFW 7591 State ALA President, and 8 Knuteson

Doing what we came to do (below). Here, we are speaking with an aide of Sen. Kelda Roys, Jalen Knuteson.



From left, 1 Joseph Hines VFW 1318, 2 Lisa Kromanaker AL Sadicario AL 1318, 7 Cheryl Aide Jalen

This Veterans Day at the Capitol, we emphasized these Veteran priorities:

Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit and UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project



Post 501 Judge Advocate Jesse Garza carried the "**Be the One**" flag and led the procession. Department Commander Jim Johnson kindly provided the flag to Post 501.

Submitted by Dane County Council Historian Morris Sadicario (Post 501)

DONKEYS ARE OUT!



Miss Purdy and Nestor will be out and about on the following dates and places accompanied by their donkey crew; members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 and American Legion Post 13.

May 26 - Memorial Day Parade

May 30 - Harvest Guest Home

June 6 - Sauk County Health Care Center, Reedsburg

June 13 - Schmidt Woodland Hills

June 20 - Pine Valley

June 27 - Our House

All visits begin at 10:00 am pending weather and military funerals. Come on out and visit with the residents, staff and of course Miss Purdy and Nestor!



American Legion Third District Golf Scramble

On Sunday, July 27, 2025, at Deer Valley Golf Course in Barneveld. Registration 8:00AM - 8:45AM Shotgun Start at 9:00AM

Cost is \$70.00 per person (\$280.00 for team) Please **send reservation by July 17th** to help us prepare for the meal.

Set up your foursome for this event. If you do not have a team but want to participate, please register and you will be assigned a team. Players aged 70 and older may tee off from the green. A lunch will be served following the event at the Barneveld Legion Hall, 102 Wood St.

Contact Dennis Wood at Black Earth with questions/concerns. 608-767-3665 or email at: Denniswood1808@gmail.com **Make checks out to:** Mickelsons-Martin American Legion Post 313 and **mail to:** Dennis Wood P O Box 283, Black Earth WI 53515-0283

You may also contact Todd King, Head Pro at Deer Valley Golf Course if interested. 608-924-3033 Registration forms are also available at the club house.

I do not golf but want to help with registration, prizes, or contests on the course.

Name _____ email/phone _____

\$280.00 enclosed

My 4 person team: _____

I do not have a team – Please place with a team: **\$70.00 enclosed**

Name _____ email/phone _____

AMERICAN LEGION 3RD DISTRICT GOLF SCRAMBLE
HOLE SPONSORSHIP

I pledge \$50.00 to sponsor one hole at the July 27, 2025 outing at Deer Valley Golf Course.

Name of sponsor _____

One hole \$50.00

Thank you for your sponsorship which will help make this event successful.

Dennis J Wood 608-767-3665

Check payable to:

American Legion Post 313

Mail to:

American Legion Post 313

P O Box 283

Black Earth WI 53515-0283



Noreen Schmidt – 3rd District President

May Day Greetings,

The 2025 Third District's Spring Conference was held on Saturday, April 26th in Monroe with 55 attendees. We were honored to have Department Senior-Vice President Sue Hembrook deliver greetings on behalf of Department President Becky Mueller. The guest speaker was Jodi Barnett, Women Veterans Coordinator with the WI Department of Veterans Affairs. Jodi spoke of the challenges women veterans experience and the support available to them. District Commander Dan O'Brien gave a supportive message on how to keep the Legion Family strong.

The Pulvermacher-Ryan/Endres Leadership Award was awarded to three recipients, Cathy Wilson-Eyre from Madison Unit 481, Sheila Melby from Richland Center Unit 13 and Suzi Mickelson from Mazomanie Unit 437. The traveling Silver Tea Service was presented to Madison Unit 481, the Harriet Hess Bell was presented to Stoughton Unit 59 and the Gravel to Cassville e-Unit 352. 14 Units were awarded certificates for achieving 100% membership; in fact, Third District is at 91% of reaching their goal of 2,490 members.

Michelle Lawn a member of the e-Unit 352 Cassville, made the motion that Dr. Christine Johnsen a member of e-Unit 352 be endorsed by the Third District for Department Historian. Members of the Third District expressed their words of congratulations and support to Christine.

\$970 funds raised from the gift basket raffle and 50/50 were donated to the Department's Homeless Female Veterans Grant Fund.

The conference was a success due to the creative executive committee members of the Third District, Auxiliary members of Unit 84 Monroe, Unit 141 New Glarus, Unit 144 Albany and; the Legion Post 84 Monroe who provided the sound system, assisted with room set-up and provided a delicious lunch.

As of this publishing date, not all "Unit Year-End Impact Numbers Report" have been submitted but the numbers so far are impressive; 32,185 hours members volunteered to veterans/military service and \$45,449 dollars spent in service to veterans and military; \$23,628 dollars raised from poppies and \$9,400 in scholarships to be awarded to 25 students. Always remember the first words in the Auxiliary's Mission Statement "In the spirit of Service, not self".



Membership Shelley and Nicole

Wonderful work ladies. We doubled our 100% club from last year and we have so many units into the 90% club. Very Impressive! We realize all your efforts to get there. Keep up the good work. I suggested our unit pay half the membership dues for new members, as our renewal season kicks off again soon, to see if we could get one or two more to try us out. I'll let you know how it works for us.

The conference was filled with lots of awards and great informative speakers. We've all worked very hard to make this conference reflect President Noreen's wishes. 2025 looks to be quite busy as we will be visiting our units and some of their events coming up. We would love your input to move us forward in a positive way and new ideas to garner us new members. We strive to have a better outreach with our units and introduce new ideas to the Auxiliary. Please share what you wish, we are interested.

God Bless Shelley and Nicole

SNAPSHOTS FROM CONFERENCE

